2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
EZ6 Malta EZ6

665 were transformed from propaganda and social centres into instruments of government. As the village branches of the party in power, they represented government in the eyes of the people, if not the civil servants. They transmitted and explained the policy of the administration and they channelled requests to the appropriate authorities. Ministers made use of the Local Committees [645] for business at the village level, since the Committees generally provided their only direct contact with the villages.

IV

182 The State, the Church and the political parties are thus the national organizations which affect the lives of the people at the 64 village level. The State is highly centralized, and has no political 665 representatives in the villages. In contrast to the State, the Church 795 has its official representatives in every village and hamlet. They are firmly controlled from above. The structure of the Malta Labour Party also rests firmly on its village level organization. The differing structural frameworks of these organizations have a direct bearing on this study. While competition for power at the national level between the State, on the one hand, and the Church or political parties, on the other, can often lead to bitter disputes, such conflict rarely causes division at the village level. In contrast, disputes at the national level between the political parties, or between a political party and the Church are transmitted immediately through their respective structures to the level of the village. There they bring about a conflict of interest which reflects the struggle for power at the national level.